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OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

MEMORANDUM TO: Dr. H. N. Chadwell
2430 E St., N. W.
Washington, D. C.

FROM: Karl H. Weber

SUBJECT: German Research Proposals

REFERENCE: (a) Cable 22534 dated 12 January 1952
(b) R-0-00275 dated 19 December 1951

1. Reference (a) requests comments on a German proposal for establishment of a "European Community for Scientific Research" under the European Defense Community as outlined in Paris-to-State Cable 3720. My comments follow.

2. Underlying this proposal by the Germans is their understandable reluctance to be placed in a subordinate position in the military research field by the terms of contractual agreements with the Occupying Powers. The French particularly have been insistent upon a convention on "Security Controls" which would in effect continue the Military Security Board as an element of control over German research activity. British and American attitude on the other hand has leaned toward granting responsibility to the Germans allowing them to regulate their own affairs by legislation and satisfy Allied requirements through guarantees. Negotiations to date have brought out the divergence of viewpoint thus sketchily outlined.

3. The German proposal of a research community represents then another German attempt to evade the more rigid and formal and program of controls foreseen in contractual agreements. In making the proposal, the Germans are of course ostensibly relinquishing German sovereignty in military scientific research in the suggested fields. This is of course a hollow gesture since Germany at the present time possesses no true sovereignty but only a certain amount of bargaining strength. On the other hand, Germany is suggesting a step which would mean the relinquishing of prerogatives by other members of the EC.

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4. There is a feeling here that the Germans are sincere in making the proposal since it would represent an outlet for them in fields in which all other proposals would tend to preclude or seriously limit German activity.

5. In reference (b) I was asked to look into the Blank proposal for utilization of German scientists in the military-technical field. This proposal is a German alternative to the research community proposal and both seek to avoid regulation of German activities by contractual agreements. It is presumed that the Blank proposal represents the German ideal of research activity carried out in Germany with the blessing and support of the U.S. and presumably other Western Powers. Since it must be apparent to the Germans that many serious and perhaps insurmountable difficulties are associated with the Blank proposal, the alternative of the EDC research community is the next best arrangement for them. My personal feeling from an objective viewpoint is that the best research results would come from the Blank arrangement (under the concept "Germany for Germans") and the next best from the EDC research community proposal. It would be difficult to deny Blank's claim that there are many willing German researchers with good ideas in the military technical field. Unquestionably many such individuals exist but it should also be remembered that these scientists and technicians have been largely inactive for roughly seven years in such work and their eventual usefulness would be greatly affected by the willingness of other Western Powers to pass current information to them. The eventual success of either system therefore depends in the last analysis on German sincerity in participating in any Western community program and, since this is a problem in the political sphere, I do not feel my opinion on this aspect would have any significance.

6. I shall attempt to keep you informed as negotiations progress or as you request. In the meantime my views are those outlined above.

KARL H. WERNER